

# STATE OF COLORADO

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## Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 721  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
Phone: (303) 866-3441  
Fax: (303) 866-4474  
www.cwcb.state.co.us



TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Veva Deheza, Section Chief  
Office of Water Conservation and Drought Planning

Kevin Houck, Section Chief  
Watershed Protection & Flood Mitigation Section

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

Mike King  
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel  
CWCB Director

DATE: November 4, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 17e, November 15-16, 2011 Board Meeting**  
**Non-Reimbursable Investments – CWCB**  
**Flood Response Program Fund - Refreshed**

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### Introduction

A \$150,000 Flood Response Program was authorized in the 2001 Construction Fund Bill (SB 01-157) and enacted by the Colorado General Assembly. This amount was increased in the 2007 Construction Fund Bill (SB 07-122) to \$300,000 to reflect the additional cost of performing existing program functions and the addition of valuable services under the program. The Flood Response Fund (Fund) was originally created to give the CWCB an ability to quickly respond to events and have program funds in the areas of: 1) flood documentation, 2) flood forecasting and outlooks, 3) post-event floodplain mapping, 4) aerial photography, and 5) flood mitigation. This year's request now includes a proposal to expand the authorized purposes of the Fund to include a drought component.

### Discussion

The current request is to refresh the account up to \$300,000 for FY 2012/13. In addition to the original Fund purposes identified in previous authorizations, staff is proposing to add drought response as a new element of the program so that there is an ability to expend funds on drought preparedness, response, and recovery activities as appropriate. Drought, like flood, is a frequent natural hazard impacting Colorado on a regular basis and resulting in serious and costly damage. Currently, southern Colorado is experiencing some of the driest conditions on record and losses thus far are substantial. Funding to improve drought preparedness and response will help Coloradans in drought stricken regions and decrease overall impacts and costs. Repurposing this fund to address both flood and drought increases the efficiency and effectiveness of the CWCB to adequately respond to natural hazards affecting Colorado; while also recognizing the current fiscal constraints by utilizing existing resources. Staff clearly recognizes that there will be years in the future when both flood conditions and drought conditions exist during the same water year

and/or during the same fiscal year. In those situations, the Fund could be stressed by needs from the two extreme conditions, and Staff will prioritize expenditures.

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Board: 1) rename and repurpose the Flood Response Fund as the Flood and Drought Response Fund, 2) revise the statutory authorization in C.R.S. 37-60-123.2 to include drought preparedness and response as new elements of the Fund (see attached redline document), and 3) restore the account by up to \$300,000 for Fiscal Year 2012/13 for the authorized purposes.

**Water Project Construction Program - Project Data**  
**Non-Reimbursable Investment**

**Grantee:** Colorado Water Conservation Board      **County:** Statewide

**Project Name:** Colorado Flood and Drought Response Fund

**Project Type:** Program Funds for post event floodplain mapping, flood and drought forecasting, aerial photography, natural hazard mitigation, documentation and natural hazard preparedness and response.

**Drainage Basin:** All River Basins in Colorado

**Water Source:** N/A

**Total Project Cost:** \$300,000

**Funding Source:** CWCB Const. Fund

**Type of Grantee:** State Government

**Median Household income:** N/A

**CWCB Non-Reimbursable Inv.:** \$300,000 (refresh up to) **Interest Rate:** N/A    **Term:** N/A

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The current request is to refresh the account up to \$300,000 for FY 2012/13. This application serves to amend the existing "flood response" fund to include drought preparedness and response. Drought, like flood, is a frequent natural hazard impacting Colorado on a regular basis and resulting in serious and costly damage. Currently, southern Colorado is experiencing some of the driest conditions on record and losses thus far are substantial. Funding to improve drought preparedness and response will help Coloradans in drought stricken regions and decrease overall impacts and costs. Repurposing this fund to address both flood and drought increases the efficiency and effectiveness of the CWCB to adequately respond to natural hazards affecting Colorado; while also recognizing the current fiscal constraints by utilizing existing resources.

This amendment would assist the State in complying with FEMA requirements to update natural hazard mitigation plans for flood and drought every three years, enable vulnerability and impacts assessments to be carried out prior to and following an event, respectively, which will help to mitigate impacts and costs during future events. This is similar to how the response fund has worked for flood.

Attached: Proposed language changes to the existing flood response statute.